

In the Claims:

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (currently amended) A spool piece termination structure to be mounted to a spool piece so as to support a spool piece hub during the connection of the spool piece hub to a corresponding pipeline hub, ~~characterized in that the termination structure (5) comprises~~ comprising:

a clamping device (3) for clamping together said spool piece hub and pipeline hub, and ~~that the termination structure (5) further comprises~~

a base frame (7) openly shaped downwards so as to allow the termination structure (5) to receive a pipeline end section provided with said pipeline hub by lowering the termination structure (5) downwards onto said pipeline end section.

2. (currently amended) A The spool piece termination structure according to claim 1, ~~characterized in that the termination structure (5) comprises~~ further comprising:

a guiding device (9, 51) for engaging the pipeline end section when received in the termination structure (5) so as to secure that the pipeline end section and the associated pipeline hub are properly received and positioned in the termination structure.

3. (currently amended) A The spool piece termination structure according to claim 1, further comprising: or 2, ~~characterized in that the termination structure (5) is provided with~~ landing means (8a, 8b) designed to allow the termination structure to rest on the seabed

or on a fabricated subsea foundation.

4. (currently amended) ~~A~~ The spool piece termination structure according to ~~any of the preceding claims, characterized in that the termination structure (5) comprises~~ claim 1, further comprising:

a lifting appliance ~~(50)~~ for lifting a pipeline end section received in the termination structure ~~(5)~~ upwards in relation to the base frame ~~(7)~~.

5. (currently amended) ~~A~~ The spool piece termination structure according to ~~any of the preceding claims, characterized in that~~ claim 1, wherein the clamping device ~~(3)~~ is fixedly secured in relation to the base frame ~~(7)~~ so as to be displaceable together with the base frame ~~(7)~~.

6. (currently amended) A connection arrangement for subsea connection of a pipeline to a spool piece by clamping together a pipeline hub secured to an end section of the pipeline and a spool piece hub secured to an end section of the spool piece, ~~characterized in~~ the connection arrangement comprising:

~~that the connection arrangement comprises~~ a spool piece termination structure ~~(5)~~ according to ~~any of claims 1-5~~ claim 1,

~~that the connection arrangement comprises~~ an alignment structure ~~(20)~~ designed to be connectable to a pipeline end section received in the termination structure ~~(5)~~ by being lowered downwards onto said pipeline end section so as to come to bear against it, the alignment structure ~~(20)~~ being designed to receive, when it is lowered downwards onto said pipeline end section, at least a part of a flange of the pipeline end section, the alignment structure ~~(20)~~

comprising an alignment device (22) for properly aligning said flange and thereby the pipeline hub in relation to the alignment structure when received therein; and

~~that wherein~~ the alignment structure (20) and clamping device (3) are designed to be displaceable in relation to each other when the alignment structure has come to bear against said pipeline end section and the pipeline end section flange has been received in the alignment structure so as to allow the pipeline hub and the spool piece hub to be mutually displaced into contact with each other.

7. (currently amended) A The connection arrangement according to claim 6, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the alignment structure (20) is designed to receive at least a part of a rotationally symmetric flange of a pipeline end section.

8. (currently amended) A The connection arrangement according to claim 6, ~~wherein or 7, characterized in that~~ the termination structure (5) and alignment structure (20) are provided with corresponding alignment members (15, 25) which are designed to allow contact with each other when the alignment structure (20) and the clamping device (3) are displaced towards each other for the purpose of alignment of the alignment structure (20) in relation to the clamping device (3).

9. (currently amended) A The connection arrangement according to claim 8, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein one of the alignment structure (20) and termination structure (5) is provided with at least one male-like alignment member (25), preferably in the form of a spear, which is designed to fit into a corresponding female-like alignment member (15), preferably in

the form of a spear funnel, arranged on the other of said structures (20, 5).

10. (currently amended) A The connection arrangement according to claim 9, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the respective male-like alignment member (25) is displaceably mounted in the associated structure (20) so as to allow the alignment member (25) to be retracted out of the corresponding female-like alignment member (15) without having to displace the entire alignment structure (20) in relation to the termination structure (5).

11. (currently amended) A The connection arrangement according to claim 10, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the respective male-like alignment member (25) is displaceable by means of a hydraulic cylinder (28) arranged in the associated structure (20).

12. (currently amended) A The connection arrangement according to ~~any of claims 8-11,~~ ~~characterized in that~~ claim 8, wherein the alignment structure (20) is provided with at least two alignment members (25), which are arranged in the alignment structure (20) so as to be located below and on either side of the centre line of a pipeline end section onto which the alignment structure (20) has been lowered.

13. (currently amended) A The connection arrangement according to ~~any of claims 8-12,~~ ~~characterized in that~~ claim 8, wherein the respective alignment member (25) of the alignment structure (20) is designed to abut against the corresponding alignment member (15) of the termination structure (5) for the purpose of aligning the hub mating faces at displacement prior to their mutual contact for final alignment.

14. (currently amended) A The connection arrangement according to claim 12, wherein ~~or 13, characterized in that~~ the alignment structure (20) is provided with at least two stop members (26), which are arranged in the alignment structure (20) so as to be located above and on either side of the centre line of a pipeline end section onto which the alignment structure (20) has been lowered, the respective stop member (26) being designed to abut against a corresponding stop member (16) of the termination structure (5) in the purpose of aligning the hub mating faces at displacement prior to their mutual contact for final alignment.

15. (currently amended) A The connection arrangement according to ~~any of claims 6-14,~~ ~~characterized in that~~ claim 6, wherein the alignment device (22) of the alignment structure (20) comprises at least one force applying member (22a) for forcing a received pipeline end section flange against an abutment (23) of the alignment structure.

16. (currently amended) A The connection arrangement according to claim 15, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the alignment device (22) of the alignment structure (20) comprises at least three force applying members (22a) spaced apart in the circumferential direction of a received pipeline end section flange for forcing said pipeline end section flange against said abutment (23).

17. (currently amended) A The connection arrangement according to ~~any of claims 6-16,~~ ~~characterized in that~~ claim 6, wherein the termination structure (5) is designed to receive a remotely operated connecting tool (30) provided with force applying means (31a, 31b) for

displacing the clamping device (3) and the alignment structure (20) in relation to each other.

18. (currently amended) A The connection arrangement according to claim 17, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the termination structure (5) is provided with guiding means (18) designed to co-operate with corresponding guiding means (33) on the connecting tool (30) so as to guide the connecting tool into a correct position in relation to the termination structure when the connecting tool is lowered downwards into contact with the termination structure.

19. (currently amended) A The connection arrangement according ~~any of claims 6-18,~~ ~~characterized in that~~ to claim 6, wherein the clamping device (3) is displaceable in relation to the alignment structure (20) by being displaceable together with the other parts of the termination structure (5) in relation to the alignment structure (20).

20. (currently amended) A method for subsea connection of a pipeline (1) to a spool piece (2) by clamping together a pipeline hub (1a) secured to an end section (1b) of the pipeline and a spool piece hub (2a) secured to an end section of the spool piece (2), ~~wherein the following steps are performed~~ the method comprising:

a spool piece termination structure (5), to which the spool piece hub (2a) is mounted and which comprises a clamping device (3), is made to receive the pipeline end section (1b) and the associated pipeline hub (1a) by lowering the termination structure (5) downwards onto said pipeline end section,

the pipeline hub (1a) and the clamping device (3) are displaced towards each other so as to bring the pipeline hub (1a) and the spool piece hub (2a) with the clamping device (3) into

contact with each other,

whereupon the clamping device (3) is activated so as to clamp together the pipeline hub (1a) and the spool piece hub (2a).

21. (currently amended) A The method according to claim 20, ~~characterized in~~ wherein:
~~that~~ an alignment structure (20) is connected to the pipeline end section (1b) received in the termination structure (5) by being lowered downwards onto said pipeline end section so as to come to bear against it, the alignment structure being made to receive, when it is lowered downwards onto the pipeline end section (1b), at least a part of a flange (1d) of the pipeline end section received in the termination structure,

~~that~~ an alignment device (22) arranged in the alignment structure (20) thereafter is activated so as to properly align said flange (1d) and thereby the pipeline hub (1a) in relation to the alignment structure (20), and

~~that~~ the clamping device (3) and the alignment structure (20) thereafter are displaced towards each other so as to bring the pipeline hub (1a) and the spool piece hub (2a) with the clamping device (3) into contact with each other.

22. (currently amended) A The method according to claim 21, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the alignment structure (20) is made to receive at least a part of a rotationally symmetric flange (1d) of the pipeline end section.

23. (currently amended) A The method according to claim 21, wherein ~~or 22,~~
~~characterized in that~~ corresponding alignment members (15, 25) of the termination structure (5)

and the alignment structure (20) are brought into contact with each other when the clamping device (3) and the alignment structure (20) are displaced towards each other so as to properly align the pipeline hub (1a) in relation to the spool piece hub (2a).

24. (currently amended) A The method according to ~~any of claims 20-23~~, characterized ~~in that claim 20, wherein~~ the alignment structure (20) and clamping device (3) are displaced in relation to each other by means of a remotely operated connecting tool (30) provided with force applying means (31a, 31b) for displacing the clamping device and the alignment structure (20) towards each other.

25. (currently amended) A The method according to ~~any of claims 20-24~~, characterized ~~in that claim 20, wherein~~ the pipeline hub (1a) and the clamping device (3) are brought into position to each other by displacing the clamping device (3) together with the other parts of the termination structure (5) in relation to the pipeline hub (1a).

26. (currently amended) A pipeline termination to be applied to the end section of a pipeline so as to allow the pipeline to be connected sub-sea to a spool piece, the pipeline termination (1e) comprising:

a pipeline hub (1a) designed for connection to a corresponding spool piece hub, characterized in that the pipeline termination (1e) further comprises and

a flange (1d) located behind the pipeline hub (1a) and designed to constitute a reaction shoulder for use in the alignment and displacement of the pipeline termination (1e) and the associated pipeline hub (1a) in relation to said spool piece hub.

27. (currently amended) ~~A~~ The pipeline termination according to claim 26,
~~characterized in that~~ wherein the flange (14) is rotationally symmetric.